



"Our Home, our Country and our Brother Man."

BEES.

A friend recently sent us a copy of the "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal," which contains a communication on bees, which we should have considered unworthy of notice, had not Dr. Holmes, of the "Maine Farmer," given publicity to it, by copying it, and by endorsing it himself.

Now, both the writer of the article in question, and Dr. Holmes show that they are discussing a subject that they do not understand, and both show a state of ignorance of the natural history of the bee, and that they are entirely out of their proper sphere in discussing the subject as teachers.

We cannot copy the remarks of these gentlemen in full, but we adduce enough to overthrow their theories.

We begin with Dr. Holmes, who says:—

"We want more evidence to induce us to believe that the 'Queen,' so called, is a queen—a real female, and that the drones are all males. The reverse would be more conformable to the principles of nature. We are now inclined to believe that the Queen is a King, that the working bees are also males, and that the drones are females. This would be equalizing the association more in accordance with the general routine of nature's laws as exemplified in all gregarious animals. Again, we want more evidence to convince us that the killing of drones by the workers in the fall is a matter of malice or calculation. Do not the drones begin to die off as many other insects do, after having performed their duties of laying eggs or maggots, and propagating new swarms? These being dead are thrown out as any other useless and foreign matter is thrown out, and in the general clearing of the hives, many are seized before they are quite dead, or cease to struggle."

We had made observations that convinced us that the drones, instead of being males, were females; and that what has been considered a queen was probably a male, and therefore more of a king than a queen.

The "evidence" that the "queen" is a queen, lies in the fact, which thousands of apiarists know to be true—that it is impossible to cause a swarm of bees to remain in their hive, under any circumstances, without a queen, and that many swarms have propagated their species rapidly, without a single drone among them—that the queen has often, and may be seen by any person, to deposit her eggs in rapid succession in the cells, when the bees are placed in an "observatory" hive, with a single sheet of comb.

The Doctor says:—"We want more evidence to convince us that the killing of drones by workers in the fall is a matter of malice, or calculation." We verily believe, Doctor, that you never owned a family of bees, nor studied their nature at all, or you would not talk thus.

The drones are not killed in the "fall" but in July, and August, according to latitude, and when you have seen, as all apiarists do see, a systematic destruction of the drones take place in a hundred families at the same time, and on the same day, when no such slaughter was going on the day previous, you will be convinced that the work is one of "calculation."

"Do not the drones begin to die off as many other species of insects do, after having performed their duties of laying eggs?" This question would not excite our surprise, had it been asked by a man who professed to have no knowledge of the subject at all, but from Dr. Holmes, we are, indeed, astonished. He furthermore thinks that the annual killing of the drones by the workers, may be nothing more than the seizing of those that are dying a natural death, "before they are quite dead, or cease to struggle!" and that all apiarists, from Huber down to this date, have made a great mistake, and what they have seen in years of close examination, is an "optical illusion!" Verily Doctor, you should "write a book" as soon as possible, and enlighten us in the "dark days" of bee culture.

Now, Doctor, we call on you in behalf of the beekeepers of the United States, to give us the details of your "observations that have convinced you that drones are females." You have boldly attempted to undermine the facts that apiarists have added to the world of ages, and we demand that you "show your work," or forever hereafter remain silent—or till you have taken a few lessons on the subject.

The writer of the article in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal brings forward the same theory as that of Dr. Holmes, viz: that the queen is a king, and that the drones are females, and lay all the eggs; and as our space is limited we omit its insertion. The writer evinces his ignorance of the subject to such a degree that we should dishonor our paper by its republication, and we will close by refuting his theory, by adducing a few facts, that cannot be controverted, and which forever set at rest, with men of any knowledge on the subject, the non-sensical theory that the drones are the female bees.

It is a well known fact, that hives of bees generally, contain no drones in this latitude from September to May, yet in every month in the year, brood, larvae, or young bees, may be found in prosperous, and well populated families, and in April and May, before a single drone appears, the largest increase of the season takes place. Now, Dr. Holmes, how were those thousands of young bees propagated by the drones, and how are the young bees propagated in families when not a drone exists at all, during the entire season, as is sometimes the case?

We are not disposed to be very severe this time, but we do believe that you are better acquainted with the theory and practice of Medicine, than with the natural history of the honey bee.

We take the above from the "Northern Far-

mer," whose Editor, T. B. Miner, Esq., has (as he has advised us to do,) not only written a book on bees, but has also taken out a patent for a Bee Hive. This he has no doubt, and we give him perfect liberty to make, such, and as many strictures upon any remarks of ours on bees, or anything else, that truth will warrant him in doing, albeit, we may "show that we are discussing a subject that we do not understand," and also "show a state of ignorance of the natural history of the bee, and that we are also out of our proper sphere in discussing the subject as teachers."

Really, brother Miner! we thought we lived in a land of liberty, and that we had a right to discuss any subject, even if we did not understand it so well as some of our neighbors.

We have been taught from our childhood, that the best way to elicit information on any subject, was to discuss it. We assumed the post of a "teacher" in beeology, although we do know a bee from a hornet, and a drone from a worker. We have merely stated our doubts, our belief, and our opinion. Perhaps we have been presumptuous in so doing, without begging brother Miner's permission in a matter on which he professes to be so well posted up. It is a way we have up East here, to strive to make up an opinion from observation of facts, and to express that opinion freely and frankly, and we do not feel disposed to yield that right to any power, that ranks no higher than mortality, even on the grave question, whether a drone is a he, or a she, or nobody at all.

Your assertion that "a queen is a queen" is a mere "ipse dixit" derived from old Huber, who was a blind man, and who could not distinguish a bee from a donkey, and who depended upon the rhodomontade of an ignorant superstitious Swiss servant, for material to fill out his book. This idea has been as blindly copied from Huber to Miner, without any tangible, demonstrable facts to warrant it. Now we reiterate the expression, that "we want more facts to prove this."

Whether brother Miner believes we ever saw a bee or not, has nothing to do with settling the question, though, if it is any relief to his doubts, we will assure him, that with the exceptions of two or three seasons, we have not been without a swarm of bees for the last twenty years, and have received many a sting for intruding our presence into their "inner wards," without having a "wedding garment."

We would assure him also, that we have read much of the works of bees, that have been written from Columella and Virgil, down to his own.

In regard to his book, we will say, that it is a very interesting work. Some parts of it contain valuable facts, and good practical instruction. Some of it is made up of probabilities, and some parts of it are pleasing romance, and he well knew that it was romance when he wrote it, for he is not a fool by a long chalk. What troubles him in the hints and queries we made in this matter, is the fear that, on examination, they should be substantiated, the pleasant dreams on his book would be broken up, and the sale of it injured.

This would make him sick, but as he is in good nature, believes that we are somewhat acquainted with "the theory and practice of medicine," we will venture to prescribe an allopathic dose of "resignation to the truth," and that he get out a new edition conformable to demonstrated facts.

One word more about the time when drones are "knocked down and dragged out." We have seen this "killing time" protracted even until the last of October,—that is a positive fact, brother Miner.

As for giving the "details of our observations," we may, or we may not, as circumstances may hereafter allow or demand, but as for obeying the injunction to "forever remain silent" on the subject, if we do not give them, and "show our hand" in that way, we shall do no such thing, brother Miner! So stick a pin there, and keep the place.

GAD FLY IN HORSES. Farmers are familiar with the fact, that there is a species of fly that deposits its eggs in the backs of horned cattle, where it hatches, and the worm remains all winter, forming what are called "bunches" or "warbles" in the animal. We never saw any thing of the kind in horses, until the other day. Some bunches were then observed in the back of our venerable and highly worthy old mare "Cassidy," from which were pressed a worm, much resembling those obtained from cattle, though not so large. We had never seen any thing of the kind before.

CISTERS FOR RAIN WATER. If all the rain which falls in the Northern States within a year, should remain upon the surface of the earth, without sinking into it and running off, it would form an average depth of water of about three feet,—in Southern States four feet. There is not a farmer in our country but could supply himself with an abundance of good water, if he would build spacious cisterns and collect the rain from his barn and out-house roofs therein. In many parts of our country, during dry seasons, the farmers have to drive their cattle to a great distance—to some constant stream for water. By simply building good underground cisterns they can always have a plentiful supply of water at hand at their own doors; for we hold it as an established principle, that sufficient water falls for the supply of all living creatures, upon the roofs of buildings erected for their protection or habitation. [Germanstown Telegraph.]

TO KEEP BEES FROM PICKING FRUIT. As the season is coming on for the depredations of birds, I beg to report my experience of last year, when I saved my cherries by hanging up several pieces of tin with strong thread in the different trees, two pieces being hung near enough together to clash with the wind, which sound, with the bright reflection of the tin in the sun, certainly frightened them away; and I had my share of fruit, which, the preceding year, I was obliged to relinquish to them. So says a New Jersey farmer.



THE ARABIAN HORSE TARTER.

HAVE WE AN ARABIAN HORSE AMONG US?

Yes, and a very fine one too. The full blood Arabian Horse, sent a few years ago, from the Sultan of Muscat to Hon. Daniel Pingree, of Salem, is now owned by our worthy friend David Elder, of Gorham, and may be seen at Geo. Dyer's stable, Gorham Corner. He is a sprightly active horse suitable for the saddle and light draft, and hence, will make a valuable cross with many of our heavier sluggish breeds. Every one knows the character of the Arabian horse for speed, endurance, and docility, and all of the best horses in the world are considered to be recommended by tracing their pedigree back to some Arabian ancestor.

The above cut is a portrait of one of Imaun's children, Tartar, raised by Asa Pingree, Esq., of Topsheld, Mass., and now owned by J. S. Leavitt, of Salem, Me. The artist has placed the head in rather a constrained position, instead of letting him have it in a free and easy posture, but you will perceive that though only a half blood, he possesses in a striking degree, the true Arab form and characteristics.

We trust the farmers of Maine will improve the opportunity now offered them, to obtain a new touch of Arab blood among their horses, from so pure a source. By breeding from him, and then mingling in Messenger and Morgan blood, you will obtain an excellent cross of fleet and hardy ratters.

SEED CORN.

Mr. Editor:—I noticed in the Farmer of September 13th, 1853, an account of some one that had an early kind of seed corn, and thought at the time I would write a short chapter of my experience in raising corn. I usually planted the old fashioned eight rowed corn until about the year 1836, at that time I was at Mercer, and saw some corn in a chamber that I liked the looks of; it was very sound and handsome, 12 rowed, some 14, and some as high as 16 rowed. I bought a few ears, and the next spring I planted them and some 8 rowed; in the fall I found my corn that grew from the seed that I got at Mercer 14 days later than that I had usually planted. I concluded to pick my seed in the field from the seed I obtained at Mercer,—took the most forward ears, and have continued to pick my seed in the field every year since. Last spring I planted my corn the 25th day of May, the 27th day of August I picked my seed, the last day of September I began to cut my corn. About every ear was ripe and sound. I put it into shocks, and in a few days I hauled it; finished the 19th of September. In 1846 I planted it on a piece of land that was naturally wet, and it was a very wet spring. I could not plant my corn until the 10th day of June. I thought I should raise sound corn as my neighbors that planted on dryer land than mine the 25th of May, and I was not disappointed. I had good ripe corn. The next spring I planted my corn the 6th of June, upon a wet piece of land. It was a wet season in the spring, (and I always plant my corn on wet land and my potatoes on dry land.) I raised good ripe corn, and last spring I furnished seed corn for a number of farmers until I had sowed all that was picked in the field and treased; I then furnished one man with a bushel of ears that was in the crib all winter, and another with three pecks of ears from the same crib. I was told that the seed all came up; if it had not been perfectly sound and ripe the frost would have spoiled it from coming up. I have furnished more seed corn than any other man in New Sharon. My kind of corn is earlier than any Dutton corn about here.

If what I have written will be of any benefit to any one, I shall be glad, and I know it will be if they will pick their seed corn in the field. Be sure and take the most forward ears. For the accommodation of a few farmers in the county of Kennebec, I shall send a small quantity of my seed corn to Augusta, and leave it with Blanding & Dyer.

CHRISTOPHER DYER.
New Sharon, May 16th, 1854.

WOLF ON THE JAW.

Mr. Editor:—I wish to enquire of you or some of your subscribers, if there is any remedy for a wolf upon an ox's jaw? if there is, any information will be gratefully received, as I have a three years old steer that has one. It has just made its appearance.

H. D. RING.
North Scarsmouth, May 8, 1854.

NOTE. A "wolf," as it is called, is a disease of the bone of the jaw. It is called, in surgical language, "Necrosis." Sometimes it originates in an ulcerated tooth, and if the tooth be extracted it has been known to arrest the progress of the disease, but not always. It is possible that an operation like that usually performed in cases of necrosis, that is, cutting out the diseased portion of the bone, would effect a cure, but perhaps it would be more economical to fatten the animal as soon as possible, and beef him. [Ed.]

WORKS IN THE HEAD OF SHEEP.

In answer to several inquiries on this subject, we give the following extract from Cole's Treatise on the Diseases of Animals, which gives the best popular practice in relation to the worms in the head of sheep; although it may not be strictly correct in some of its details, it affords our correspondents valuable information on the subject. [Country Gentleman.]

CAUSE. A large fly, or bee, (Oestrus ovis,) lays its eggs in the nostrils of sheep, in August and September, and perhaps earlier and later, where they hatch, and from twenty-five to one hundred small white grubs, with black heads and a black streak on the back, may sometimes be found in the cavity between the nostrils and windpipe. They continue in this place till the next summer, when they get their growth, and are as large as a pipe-stem, and nearly an inch long, with four large teeth, as hard as bone. They then leave the sheep, and soon cast off their skin, when the bee appears, and is ready to lay a new lot of eggs. Some say that the worms do not injure fat sheep, as they find sufficient support in the nostrils; but in poor sheep, for want of food, they ascend in the head. When attacked by the fly, sheep run with their noses to the ground, and often thrust them into the loose earth to shut up the avenues of approach to the enemy.

Symptoms. They do not generally appear till towards spring, at which time they may be discovered by a sickly countenance and loss of flesh, notwithstanding the best of keeping; sometimes running at the nose, (though not always,) and sneezing, as if trying to blow something from the head. In some cases the sheep suddenly spring about in a wild, frantic manner, and drop down dead. When this symptom is exhibited, the grubs have assailed some vital part. When they do not die in this manner, they grow so poor that their wool stops growing and falls off, and they give little or no milk. Sometimes they linger, pining away, and do not die till June or July.

PREVENTIVE. Smear the noses of sheep with tar frequently, from the coming until the departure of the fly. To be sure, begin in July, and continue the use of tar till October. It may be applied directly to the noses of sheep, but the better way is to lay it in a trough or on a board, and strew salt on it, and the sheep, in eating the salt, will smear their noses pretty well themselves. Give them salt in this way frequently, or keep a supply by them. Tar is also a specific against other diseases.

REMEDY. The half a pound of good Scotch snuff, mixed with two quarts of boiling water, stir it and let it stand till cold; with a syringe inject about a table spoonful of this liquid and rediment up each nostril. Repeat this three or four times, at proper intervals, from the middle of October to the first of January. The grubs are then small and more easily destroyed than afterwards, and they will not have injured the sheep as they will if this operation be deferred till later. Half an ounce of asafetida, pounded in a little water, and added to the snuff, will make it more effectual. There need be no alarm if the sheep be very drunk, and apparently in the agonies of death, when the operation is performed, as they will soon recover. Dry snuff may be blown up the nose with a quill, and have a good effect, but it is a slow and dirty job.

The reason for repeating the operation is, there are many cavities and folds where the grubs may not be exposed, and by repeating the application often, they may crawl out, and, by a change of situation, become exposed to the snuff. The sediment is thrown up, as it will be likely to remain longer, and prove more effectual than the liquid.

ANOTHER. Blow tobacco-smoke well up the nostrils, by inserting the stem of a tobacco-pipe, well charged and blow at the bowl, through a covering of cloth, for a few seconds, then in the other nostril.

ANOTHER. Pour into each nostril of every sheep affected, a tea-spoonful each of spirits of turpentine and olive oil.

Mr. J. Brown, of Akron, Ohio, a distinguished flock-master, of much experience, says, in the "Ohio Cultivator," that the fly, which is of light drab color, deposits a crawling maggot at the nose of the sheep. He had taken hundreds of them, alive and active, from his sheep. His son had them deposited twice at his nose, while at work among the sheep. The flies work in summer, and in the fall till cool weather. The act of depositing is done very quick, and the maggot is ready to pass immediately into the head. The only chance to destroy them is during their infancy, before they pass high into the head, which is not under five or six weeks. There are two sets in a year, if not more. Matured ones have been found in the heads of lambs not more than four months old.

REMEDY. He uses tobacco-water with excellent success, commencing the last of July, and applying it till the last of October, generally three times in the season. He boils one pound of good tobacco in a gallon of water. Turn the sheep on their backs in a little trench dug in the ground, and with the head held back the worms, inject with some force about a table spoonful of the liquor into each nostril, pointing the syringe so that it will go into the cavities in the head, instead of falling into the throat. If at first the animals appear sick and cannot stand, they will soon get over it. Two persons will go through with several hundred in a day.

Dr. Dadd, in quoting from Gunther, describes the symptoms as, running or turning round the sheep in eccentric circles, sometimes stepping forward again. The older the disease, the more the animal turns. According to the worms, occupy the right or left, the sheep turns to the right or left—if on both sides, the turning takes place to the one or other alternately. When the worm is on the median line, the animal does not turn. Dr. Dadd gives the following remedy:—

Take powdered worm seed, 1 ounce, sulphur, 4 do, charcoal, 2 do, fax-seed, 1 pound. Mix them, and divide into eight parts, and feed one every morning. Make a drink from the white Indian hemp, (Aclepias incarnata,) one ounce of which may be infused into a quart of water, to be given every night.

FROM THE N. Y. JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

A THOUGHT IN SPRING.

BY WILLIAM ROSS WALLACE.

I know it is sweet when the dawning Spring
First comes with her fingers full of flowers,
And we see the gleam of the bluebird's wing
At its olden play in the sprouting bower—
I know it is sweet for the bounding vein
To feel in the air the warm young beam,
While the zephyrus floats in the flowing strain
From the windy west, and the winding stream:
There's a gleam of hope on the brightest breeze,
There's a mystic glory to the sight;
And every breath that we draw in there,
Is itself to the heart a deep delight.
But a fiercer glow appears to me;
And a deeper meaning to my soul
Comes out in the bud of the greenling tree
And the heaving sky and the billows roll!
'Tis an image all of the heart that springs
From the icy coil of Error's snake,
Where he lies with his large and loathsome rings
In the wistful deep of falsehood's brake:
'Tis an emblem bright of the after time
When the soul shall burst from the body's tomb,
And her wings shall wave in the Eden clime
That is wrapp'd in a glow of deathless bloom.
O, yes it is there in the Spring that make
Such a rapture o'er the sky and soil,
While we feel the smallest creature take
A sweet, wild joy, and the plain and lake
Must summer soon in the smile of God!

GUANO FOR CORN.

A correspondent from Norwalk, Ct., asks the best method of applying guano to corn. Sow broadcast in the fall of the year, and plow in guano as deep as you please. Cross plow equally deep in the spring, and then plant. Of course the time has passed for doing this for the coming crop. The only safe way now, is to wait till the corn is up, in May or June, then mix the guano half and half with plaster of Paris, charcoal dust or fine soil, and at the first time hoeing, apply two table-spoonfuls of the mixture round the corn, about four inches from the stalks, and dig it in lightly with the spoon. If this can be done just before a rain it will be better. Careful boys or girls will do this very rapidly. As the corn is near silking, apply another table-spoonful of the same mixture around each hill, about nine inches from the stalks. This will make it ear much better, and give a larger quantity and finer quality of grain.

Guano is a very strong, burning manure. If plowed or harrowed in, just previous to planting, the slightest particle—even not much larger than a pin's head—which comes in contact with the finest roots of the corn, is liable to kill it; but by plowing it in during fall, it has time during the winter to mix well with the soil, which insulates it from burning principle—the ammonia—and then there is no danger of its injuring the crop. Perhaps if the guano were plowed in during the month of March, six weeks or so previous to re-plowing and planting, the ammonia from it would be so well mixed with the soil as to prevent danger to the corn.

[American Agriculturist.]

THE POTATO. Mr. William C. Berry, of Schuyler county, Illinois, has exhibited to us, says the St. Louis Republican, a lot of potatoes from which he gets a new and superior seed. Mr. B. has been making experiments on them for some years, and has ascertained that he can, by his process, obtain a much larger growth, more dry and solid; and he is of the opinion that it will free the crop from the rot or any disease which attends this vegetable. He claims that the seed potatoes produced by his process will insure a crop from three to four weeks earlier than the old manner of planting. He further claims, that plantings from the product of this new seed produce a potato of superior quality. The process by which the seed is produced is this: He places the potatoes in a trench, say three feet deep, covers them with boards, then a layer of chaff, and then two feet of earth, carefully preventing the water from reaching them. In the spring, each old potato presents a newly formed potato, mostly on the end. The old potato and the new formation are then planted together, being careful not to break the ligament that binds them.

CURE FOR MELON BUGS. Dr. Hull, of Newburgh, raised a large crop of melons by a process thus stated in the Horticulturist:—"Bugs were completely exterminated by watering the plants daily with a strong decoction of quassa, made by pouring four gallons of boiling water on four pounds of quassa, in a barrel, and after twelve hours, filling the barrel with water. The intolerable squash or pumpkin bug was thoroughly driven off by a decoction of double strength, containing a pound of glue to ten gallons, to make it adhere. The result was, a product of sixteen hundred superb melons, on less than one sixth of an acre of ground."

CURE FOR ROSE BUGS. Among the many remedies given, only one that we are aware of, has ever proved effectual, namely, destroying by shaking them down on a spread sheet. In some localities where they are abundant on all kinds of vegetation; this may prove totally impracticable, but in ordinary cases they may be beaten down without much difficulty. The best mode we have seen described for effecting their destruction, or that which promises the best success, is the following, given in a late number of the Boston Cultivator: In the centre of the garden a few bunches of the damask rose are planted, which the rose bug prefers to everything else, and on which they mostly congregate. When the roses are in bloom, go to these bushes with a broad pan of hot water, and shake or jar the insects into it. By pursuing this practice, they soon disappear.

THE GREEN SWEETING APPLE. J. H. Watts, of Rochester, in the last Horticulturist, pronounces this apple, which appears to be common there, as delicious. He says, "Possessing a very mild and agreeable sweet, and being very juicy, it gives a healthy tone to digestion, and can be eaten with impunity. I wish no other beverage than its juices to quench thirst, and no better dessert at all times. The tree produces abundantly, and my object is to call attention to it, that every cultivator of trees may be sure and have it." This apple keeps well in winter. We believe it is not among our variety here. [Germanstown Telegraph.]

DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

SELECTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

SPRING BEER. The following is a receipt for "first rate strengthening beer," for family use; and if it does not make a very delicious beverage, it will produce one that has probably more bark than life: Take 4 oz. Orange peel, 4 oz. Virginia snake root, and 1 oz. Peruvian bark—put these into 6 quarts water, and boil the same down to 4 quarts. Add 1 pint molasses, and 1 pint yeast. Let it stand about 20 hours—then strain and bottle for use.

FLY POISON WITHOUT ARSENIC. The following preparation is much used in Europe for the destruction of flies: Quassa, eight parts; water, five hundred parts; molasses, one hundred and twenty-five parts. Boil the quassa and water ten minutes; strain and add the molasses. The preparation can easily be made by any one. Flies are attracted by this and soon killed.

WARM CURE. Take two quarts of warm water, a gill of good hop yeast, make a thick batter, let it stand in a warm place to rise; set it away. It will be fit for use the next day. Take a pint for one tinfal; a teaspoonful of soda; half the quantity of shortening that is required for your milk; mould it into small biscuits—can be baked immediately or let rise. Put some more warm water to the sponge that is left; set it away. Good crackers can be made of the sponge with a little shortening and moulding very hard; bake immediately. Who ever uses this mixture will find it a substitute for sour milk. [Arthur's Home Gazette.]

BURNT CREAM. Set over the fire in a pan three ounces of melted sugar, stir it, and when it browns, add a quart of cream, and two ounces of ginger; boil and stir till the latter is dissolved, when sweeten it, and strain into moulds. Or, cream may be made by boiling quassa, without sugar, adding the rolls of four eggs, sweetening and sitting over it in a dish loaf-sugar, to be browned with a salamander.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR MILK AND CREAM. Beat up the white of a fresh egg, in a basin, and then pour boiling tea over it gradually, to prevent its curdling. It is difficult from the taste, to distinguish the composition from the best cream.

A HINT FOR HOUSEKEEPERS. A few drops of carbonate of ammonia, in a small quantity of warm rain-water, will prove a safe and easy anti-odor, &c., and will change, if carefully applied, discolored spots upon carpets, and indeed all spots, whether produced by acids or alkalis. If one has the misfortune to have a carpet injured by whitewash, this will immediately restore it.

INK FOR STEEL PENS. Take twenty pounds of the best Campeachy logwood, and boil it down for three hours in one gallon of water, taking care to add enough during evaporation, so as to have one gallon of liquor after boiling. Into this, dissolve 12 oz. of the chromate of potash, and six well. It should then be bottled up for use. It does not require gum to hold any sediment in solution—for there is none—like the common inks, made with the sulphate of iron, logwood and galls, or sumac. As there is no acid in this ink, it is the very writing fluid required for steel pens. [Scientific American.]

FOR A SPRAIN. A speedy and sure cure for a sprain, steep a few mullein leaves in urine, and bind them on hot.

HOW TO SOW PLANTS BY POST. If a small tuft of the plant with the earth on is wrapped in damp brown paper, and then enclosed within sheet lead, such as tea chests are lined with, it will travel securely for a week.

A NEW USE FOR COLLIDION. Cotton-powder, dissolved in ether, forms a varnish which sticks fast, dries quickly, is impermeable to water, and impenetrable to air; it is called collidion, and is much used in surgical cases. A gardener has just discovered that it may be made of vast utility in producing plants and shrubs from cuttings. On making the cutting, the varnish is applied to the part cut, which immediately becomes closed, or, so to speak, healed. The cutting is then planted in the ordinary way. Out of twenty-six cuttings of hot house plants to which collidion was applied, twenty-three struck root, whereas out of the same number to which it was not applied, only twelve succeeded. With plants kept in greenhouses, and in those in the open air, even more satisfactory results have been obtained. The collidion may also be most advantageously employed in grafting.

NEW PATENT FOR MAKING NAILS. There has recently been invented and put into operation in this city a new machine for making cut nails, the great peculiarity of which is that it is self-feeding, and will manufacture in a given time nearly, if not quite, as many again nails as any other process, and that one man, (as it is operated) with the assistance of a boy, will operate ten machines. There is also a great saving in iron, there being only a waste of about a quarter of an inch in ten feet, which is the length of the piece of iron placed in the machine at a time. It has been shown that one machine will manufacture from three hundred to three hundred and fifty nails per minute. [Troy Whig.]

LUMBER OPERATIONS. The amount of Lumber cut in Maine the past winter is thought by experienced operators to be from one fourth to one third less than an average amount for the last few years. The deficiency is owing to several causes. The high price of supplies and labor, the lateness of the season, when operations were commenced, the difficulty in carrying supplies and the severe and blocking snows, all had an influence in lessening the aggregate amount of lumber cut. There is but very little seasoned lumber now on hand, and this scarcity, together with the comparatively small amount to be brought to market, must have a tendency to keep prices high.

ONIONS. It is perhaps unknown to many of our readers, that the onion is one of the most nutritious of roots, containing when dried, from twenty-five to thirty per cent. of gluten. It is a great staple of life in Spain and Portugal. Onions are not a relish merely, to the Spaniards, for they help materially to sustain his strength, and add beyond what their bulk would suggest, to the amount of nourishment which his simple meal supplies.

